



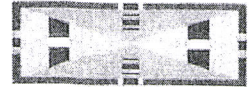
LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE

8645 S. Weaver Drive

P. O. Box 370

Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Ph.: (406) 638-3100 • Fax: (406) 638-3188



April 19, 2013

Dear Chairwoman Hansen and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Dr. David Yarlott, Jr. and it is my honor to be the President of the Little Big Horn College. I am writing this letter in support of "SJ 38", a resolution requesting an interim study of economic impact of tribal colleges in Montana.

The "Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim study of the economic impact of tribal colleges in Montana," is a much needed study which would provide critical information of the level of impact tribal colleges have to its communities and to the State of Montana.

The Montana Tribal Colleges currently contribute to its communities by:

- Increase the workforce pool with qualified and trained Montanans to meet the needs of employers.
- Input dollars into local economies and businesses that provide goods and services.
- Bring federal and grant dollars into Montana.
- Employ individuals in rural areas where there is a lack of jobs
- Provide access to education for Montanans that may not have otherwise attended college, and assists them to increase their chances of employability
- Tailor curriculums to workforce needs of local employers to increase the base of trained potential employees, and connects students to potential future employers
- Provide a gateway to attending Montana's larger universities as transfer students
- Provide adult-basic education
- Provides cost-effective, affordable education to Montanans
- Non-beneficiary enrollment in tribal colleges increased 24% from FY 2010 to FY 2012, and is projected to remain at elevated levels (LFD Budget Analysis 2015 Biennium).
- Tribal college students graduate, transfer to Montana institutions of higher education, find employment, and seek graduate degrees.

If you have any questions to my support of the SJ 38, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Yarlott, Jr.
President



Montana Indian Business Alliance

PO BOX 2222
Colstrip, MT 59323

22 April 2013

Dear Chairwoman Hansen and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Private businesses form the backbone of vibrant free enterprise economies worldwide. In Montana's Indian County, however, private business development and entrepreneurship often take a "back seat" in tribal economic development strategic planning and implementation. The path to economic success and stability is steeper in Indian County. Montana Indian Business Alliance (MIBA) is a uniquely Montana-specific tool working to level out that steep grade. MIBA promotes private Indian business development by maximizing and developing resources that encourage and support Montana Indian Entrepreneurs. This task of leveling out the grade cannot be accomplished alone. MIBA's partners are comprised of many organization and entities that are interested in Indian business development. Tribal Colleges are a substantial partner in this task and an Interim Study of the Economic Impact of Tribal colleges in Montana is essential to the development of that backbone to vibrant tribal communities.

Tribal colleges not only provide training to potential business owners, but their students, staff and faculty purchase goods and services from Indian businesses in their communities. The Tribal colleges in Montana have stepped up and partnered with MIBA to equip Indian businesses with resources, data, information and networks to accelerate opportunity and development. As chair of MIBA, a small business owner, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation with a Doctorate Degree in Adult, Community and Higher Education as well as being a proud alumni of Blackfeet Community College and former employee, I have experienced firsthand the positive impact Tribal colleges have on providing economic opportunity and community benefits.

Our state and tribal economies will benefit substantially from this study. I urge Montana's members of the House Committee on Education to recognize the potential for increased job creation, economic development and the increased access to education this study will help to foster.

Sincerely,

John H Barcus, EdD
Chair, MIBA



April 23, 2013

Representative Kristin Hansen, Chair
House Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: SJ 38

Dear Chairwoman Hansen,

I understand the House Education Committee is considering SJ 38 Requesting an Interim study of the economic impact of Tribal Colleges in Montana. I am providing this letter in support of this Senate Joint Resolution.

Tribal Colleges have a great impact on Higher Education System of Montana, by providing a gateway for transfer students to enter the Montana University system and in a similar fashion they have a substantial economic impact to the state of Montana. It is a wise idea to quantify exactly the economic impact Tribal colleges have both regionally and state wide.

The data available from a study of this nature would provide great insight and guidance for college administrators to develop curriculum tailored towards providing more economic development opportunities. In addition, this type of effort would provide those working to improve economic opportunities on and off the reservations valuable data to determine their hiring, investment and training planning needs.

As a former Montana State University student, tribal member, and business owner, I look forward to this resolution being passed and the findings available to economic development practitioners and business owners throughout the state of Montana.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Major Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Major Robinson
Principal, **redstone project development**
Member of Montana Board of Regents

Cc: Senator Windy Boy



Salish Kootenai College

Box 70
Pablo, Montana 59855
Phone (406) 275-4800
Fax (406) 275-4801



April 19, 2013

Dear Chairman Hansen and Members of the House Education Committee:

As the Interim President of Salish Kootenai College, I would like to add to the record our support for SJ 38, a resolution requesting an interim study of the economic impact of tribal colleges in Montana. This study would provide the State of Montana with critical information and data regarding the economic, social, and educational impact of tribal colleges (TCs).

Montana is fortunate to have Tribal Colleges serving their remote areas of the state. Each Tribal College is accredited; each providing a variety of educational programs; and each with open admissions. Their educational offerings are broad and meet the needs of their communities. The people in these remote areas have access to college. This really helps Montana grow educationally that result in Montana growing economically.

Tribal colleges currently:

- Increase the workforce pool with qualified and licensed Montanans to meet the needs of employers and the community including teachers, pharmacists, principals, technicians, welders, and construction workers.
- Return of the dollar into local economies and businesses that provide goods and services.
- Bring federal and grant dollars into Montana.
- Partner with state institutions and hospitals to promote health and welfare of Montanans.
- Preserve Native culture and language.
- Provide access to education for Montanans that may not have otherwise attended college, and assist them to increase their chances of employability.
- Provide a gateway for transfer students attending Montana's universities and COTs.
- Provide "on demand" training such as CPR and customer service training.
- Provide education to "fit technology into the community through classes, degree programs, and specialized training.
- Provide cost-effective, affordable education to Montanans.
- Provide education to senior citizens who wish to remain productive citizens.
- Introduce academic and scientific research to students within their own community.

Tribal Colleges are critical to the future of Montana. This study will provide helpful data in providing the economic, social, and educational impact of tribal colleges (TCs) in Montana. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elaine Frank
Interim President
Salish Kootenai College